

AO 97-001

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF ETHICS
116 WEST JONES STREET
RALEIGH 27603

GEORGE F. BASON
CHAIRMAN

May 7, 1997

The Honorable James B. Hunt, Jr.
Governor of North Carolina
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-8001

Dear Governor Hunt:

I am gratified that you were agreeable to my telephoned request that you set out in writing the illuminating information about your early role on the national education scene.

Accordingly, your letter of May 5, 1997 now supplements your previous letter of April 29, as I requested; and this letter of the Ethics Board now supplants our previous response of May 1, 1997 regarding honoraria.

Our previous statement of absence of conflict of interest is reaffirmed.

It is crucial to our Board's revised evaluation on honoraria that we now have the showing that you earned your recognition on the national education scene in 1985 when you, as a private citizen and holding no government office, founded the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), *which you have chaired ever since.*

It is also crucial to our present evaluation that your initiative as founder of NBPTS is recognized by this Board as the self-starting causal event producing the 12 year chain of events that now puts to rest the "but for" issue.

I thank you, too, for affirming that all of your national education endeavors have been and will continue to be on weekends or on your annual leave, and that your expenses are paid by the national commissions.

In conclusion, the NC Board of Ethics approves your prospective acceptance of honoraria for chairing the proposed national higher education policy endeavor.

Sincerely,

George F. Bason
Chairman

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
RALEIGH 27603-8001

JAMES B. HUNT, JR.
GOVERNOR

May 5, 1997

Judge George F. Bason
Chairman, N.C. Board of **Ethics**
Department of Administration
116 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 2763-8003

Dear Judge Bason:

I wish to request a letter from the North Carolina Ethics Board concerning an employee receiving honoraria for heading educational commissions.

From mid 1995 through the present, I have served as Chairman of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. I have received a modest honorarium for leading this effort -- with meetings occurring on weekends or during my annual leave. Funds for this commission came from two leading U.S. foundations, and all of my expenses have been paid by the commission.

The Commission on Teaching requested me to be its chair because of my work as founder and chairman of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). I founded the NBPTS in 1985 as a private citizen and have served as its chairman ever since. Funds to found this board came from a Carnegie foundation. My chairmanship of both of these endeavors will terminate at the end of this summer.

I have now been asked to chair a proposed national higher education policy endeavor which would focus on issues affecting higher education's future in America. The foundation officials who have made this request have told me that I am being asked to lead this effort, not because of my position or in my capacity as governor, but because of my national education involvement in the last 10 to 15 years. They have, particularly, cited my leadership of the NBPTS and the National Commission on Teaching and Americas Future.

Judge George F. Bason
May 5, 1997
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The higher education policy study would have its meetings on weekends or when I was on annual leave, and all expenses would be paid by the foundation funding the study or the nonprofit entity which conducted it.

As always, any honoraria I receive will be listed on my annual ethics statement.

Please advise me as to whether it is appropriate for me to personally receive honoraria under these circumstances.

My warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

James B. Hunt, Jr.



NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF ETHICS
116 WEST JONES STREET
RALEIGH 27603-8003

GEORGE F. BASON
CHAIRMAN

May 1, 1997

The Honorable James B. Hunt, 1r.
Governor of North Carolina
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-8001

Dear Governor Hunt::

This letter is in response to your request for a letter from the Ethics Board concerning honoraria for heading educational commissions.

Based on the information in your letter, we do not see any conflict of interest should you chair the board of a proposed national higher education policy endeavor which would focus on issues affecting higher education's future in America. Accordingly, we do not see any conflict of interest regarding the financing of the endeavor by a respected nonprofit philanthropic foundation.

For guidance concerning honoraria for heading educational commissions we reviewed the State of North Carolina, Office of State Budget and Management Policy on Honoraria. A copy of the Policy is enclosed for your information.

Based on our interpretation of the Policy, we believe any honoraria should be in the form of payment of a fee to the state for your services.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this question.

Sincerely,

George F. Bason
Chairman



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
RALEIGH 2760.1-8001

April 29, 1997

JAMES B. HUNT, JR.
GOVERNOR

Ms. Millie Donavant
Board of Ethics
Department of Administration
116 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Ms. Donavant:

I wish to request a letter from the Ethics Board concerning honoraria for heading educational commissions.

From mid 1995 through the present, I have served as Chairman of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. I have received a modest honorarium for leading this effort -- with the meetings occurring primarily on weekends. Funds for this commission came from two leading U. S. foundations. This responsibility will end shortly.

I have now been asked to chair the board of a proposed national higher education policy endeavor which would focus on issues affecting higher education's future in America.

This activity would be similar to my involvement with the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, and it will also be financed by a respected nonprofit philanthropic foundation. As always, any honoraria I receive will be listed on my annual ethics statement.

Please advise me as to the appropriateness of this as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

James B. Hunt, Jr.